

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NEA-10 NSC-05 NSCE-00
SS-15 /032 R

DRAFTED BY /PRS:JMEDEIROS
APPROVED BY S/PRS:JHTRATTNER
S/S-O;JETHYDEN

-----042604 090324Z /14

P 090247Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 187185 TOSEC 080216

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY -- NEWSMAGAZINES

NO. 22

NEWSWEEK -- 3-COLUMN STORY LEADS "INTERNATIONAL" SECTION.
TITLE: "A LONG ROAD TO GENEVA"

-- "IN A DOGGED EFFORT TO PROMOTE ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE TALKS
THIS YEAR, CYRUS VANCE SET OFF ON A TOUR OF MIDEAST CAPITALS
LAST WEEK AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY RAN INTO A CONTROVERSY OVER
AN UNEXPECTED EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL."

-- IN DAMASCUS, ASSAD REJECTED WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL
"PLAINLY DESIGNED TO BYPASS THE PALESTINIANS."

-- AFTER SADAT PROPOSED WORKING GROUP IDEA, US AND EGYPTIAN
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OFFICIALS DENIED IT WAS DESIGNED TO AVOID PALESTINIAN
QUESTION, BUT OTHER OBSERVERS SAW IT DIFFERENTLY.

-- ASSAD WAS MIFFED THAT SYRIA HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED BEFORE
SADAT MADE PROPOSAL; VANCE HAD TO EXPLAIN IT TO SYRIAN
LEADER.

-- PRESIDENT WARNED AGAINST WRITING OFF VANCE TRIP BECAUSE OF INITIAL SETBACKS, "BUT THE SECRETARY'S INABILITY TO MAKE VISIBLE PROGRESS TOWARD GENEVA SUGGESTED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD ONCE AGAIN LAUNCHED A DIPLOMATIC MISSION AMID A FANFARE OF UN-REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS." VANCE HAD ANNOUNCED HE WOULD BRING SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS; CARTER HAD HOPEFULLY PREDICTED GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BEGIN IN OCTOBER.

-- VANCE DID PRESENT PROPOSALS, BUT HE BECAME ENMESHED IN EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN DISAGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES EVEN BEFORE HIS TOUGHEST TEST -- MEETING BEGIN. BY LATE LAST WEEK, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ADMITTED BEST THEY COULD HOPE FOR WAS GENEVA CONFERENCE BY END OF YEAR.

-- IN MEETINGS WITH BEGIN, VANCE WILL TRY TO SELL ISRAELIS SAME PACKAGE HE HAS PRESENTED TO ARABS. IT INCLUDES: CONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH SOME FORM OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION, CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, RETURN OF ISRAEL TO 1967 BORDERS, WITH MINOR ADJUSTMENTS, ISRAELI RETENTION OF MILITARY SECURITY OUTPOSTS IN WEST BANK, WHILE WITHDRAWING BULK OF ITS ARMED FORCES OVER SEVERAL YEARS, AND TRUE PEACE, INCLUDING TRADE AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

-- VANCE WILL RETURN TO ARAB CAPITALS AFTER SEEING UNCLASSIFIED

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BEGIN. THERE MAY ALSO BE AN ARAB MINI-SUMMIT IN COMING WEEKS, AT WHICH EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO PERSUADE PLO TO BE MODERATE.

-- SADAT SAID TO BE DESPERATE TO GET NEGOTIATIONS GOING. ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE LEARNED RECENTLY THAT ASSAD AND HUSSEIN FEAR SADAT MAY BREAK THE COMMON FRONT AND SIGN A SEPARATE ACCORD WITH ISRAELIS. SYRIANS, IN ANY CASE, ARE IN NO SUCH HURRY.

TIME -- 3-COLUMN STORY LEADS "THE WORLD" SECTION.
TITLE: "NUTCRACKER SUITE: EN ROUTE WITH VANCE ON A MISSION ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE"

-- STORY OPENS WITH VANCE QUOTE DESCRIBING MISSION AS LEARNING HOW TO CRACK THE HARD NUTS THAT HAVE TO BE CRACKED.

-- SEQUENCE OF TRIP OUTLINED, WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL DESCRIBED AS "REVISED AND PROMISING VERSION OF A FORMULA FOR INDIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS."

BUT BY WEEK'S END, "ALL THAT THE TOP US ENVOY COULD SAY WITH CERTAINTY ABOUT MIDEAST NUTCRACKING WAS THAT FEW WORLD PROBLEMS HAVE SO TOUGH A SHELL AS THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT."

-- STORY INCLUDES MUCH "COLOR" PUFFERY: SEC WAS LIMPING BECAUSE HE PULLED A MUSCLE PLAYING TENNIS WITH MCNAMARA; VANCE AND SADAT SURVEYED MIDEAST SITUATION "SITTING BY MOONLIGHT IN OVERSTUFFED WICKER CHAIRS ON THE MANICURED LAWN."

-- IN MEETING WITH SADAT, VANCE PUT FORWARD SOME OF THE PROPOSALS HE HAD BROUGHT, INCLUDING PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA AFTER IT RECOGNIZES ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST,
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NEGOTIATED BOUNDARIES FOR ISRAEL, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARABS AS PART OF PEACE.

-- SADAT REJECTED THEM AND PROPOSED A SERIES OF ALTERNATIVES, OF WHICH ONLY ONE -- THE WORKING GROUP -- WAS MADE PUBLIC.

-- IN BEIRUT, VANCE PLEDGED \$142 MILLION IN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO SARKIS GOVERNMENT.

-- IN DAMASCUS, ASSAD SHOT DOWN THE WORKING GROUP IDEA. MORE OMINOUS WAS HIS GENERAL REJECTION OF THE OTHER SUGGESTIONS VANCE BROUGHT. HE REFUSED TO BUDGE FROM HIS DEMAND THAT THE PLO BE INCLUDED IN GENEVA. "ALTHOUGH HE REFUSED TO RULE OUT A GENEVA CONFERENCE FOR THIS YEAR, ASSAD'S GENERAL ATTITUDE BELIED THE FLEXIBILITY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER CLAIMS TO HAVE PERCEIVED DURING THEIR MAY MEETING."

-- VANCE MET NO PALESTINIANS, BUT ARAFAT PRECEDED AND SOMETIMES ALSO FOLLOWED HIM AT EVERY STOP EXCEPT JORDAN. IN ALEXANDRIA AFTER VANCE LEFT, ARAFAT PERSUADED SADAT TO ADD "A NEW PARAGRAPH ON PALESTINIANS" TO THE WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL.

-- VANCE SCRAPPED WORKING GROUP IDEA BY THE TIME HE FINISHED MEETING WITH HUSSEIN; HE ALSO SAID HE PREFERRED THE KIND OF GENEVA CONFERENCE THE ARABS HAVE IN MIND.

-- LATER THIS WEEK VANCE MEETS ISRAELIS, WHO DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, SINCE HE HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTING ISRAELI LEADERS. BEGIN WILL PROBABLY REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE SUBSTANTIAL
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TIVE ISSUES WITH VANCE, PREFERRING TO FOCUS ON PROCEDURAL POINTS.

-- FOR NOW, VANCE SEEMS TO BE CONCENTRATING MORE ON POSSIBILITIES FOR SETTLEMENT THAN ON HOW TO GET TO GENEVA. THERE HAS BEEN SOME "NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES," HE SAID; AND THERE HAS BEEN ONE POSITIVE SIGN -- THE ARABS WANT TO KEEP TALKING. THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE HOPE, HOWEVER, FOR A GENEVA CONFERENCE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

-- "UNLESS VANCE, IN THE TIME REMAINING ON HIS TOUR, BEGINS TO CRACK SOME OF THE MIDDLE EAST'S HARD NUTS, JIMMY CARTER'S OPTIMISM WILL BE HEAVILY DISCOUNTED."

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: JMEDEIROS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770285-0797
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From: STATE
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Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1660975
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY -- NEWSMAGAZINES NO. 22 NEWSWEEK -- 3-COLUMN STORY LEADS \"INTERNATIONAL\" S
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, US, XF, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9b73635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009